

~ RECREATION DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION ~

~ 2005 REPORT ~

The mission of the Milford Recreation Commission is to serve as advocates on behalf of the Milford community in promoting recreation and leisure activities for all ages and interests by:

- Providing a forum for communication and coordination of recreation programs and issues.
- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for best utilization of existing park and recreation facilities.
- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for implementing appropriate recreation programs.
- Providing recommendations for long-range community recreation capital improvements

RECREATION DEPARTMENT GOALS - To provide and enhance a full spectrum of community-based recreation activities for all ages, including youth, adult and senior programming.

- Foster communication and cooperation between organizations and individuals involved with recreation offerings in Milford.
- Provide recreational opportunities supporting all Milford residents and seek community input for future recreation offerings.

To maintain a close working relationship with the Recreation Commission, relying on them to provide public representation, information gathering, collaboration with interested parties, and direct guidance and support for the Recreation Department.

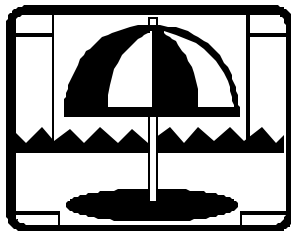
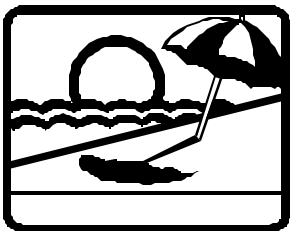
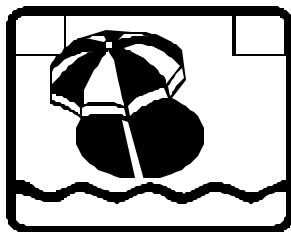
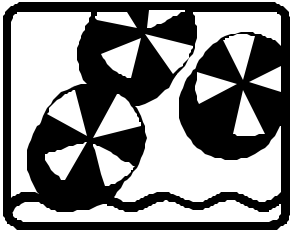
- Provide the Recreation Commission with current information and recommendations for operating Milford's recreation programming and relay issues of public input to the Commission.
- Designate each Commission member a focus area for representation to include critical recreation segments such as senior, adult, youth, fundraising, etc.

To plan for future community needs by maintaining and updating facilities and expanding and evaluating programs.

- Maintain a history of program attendance and revenue upon which to base future planning decisions.
- Evaluate programs with regard to planning, implementation, budgeting and resident involvement.

SUMMARY - 2005 was a year of many changes as the Recreation Department reorganized under new directorship and the Recreation Commission reached full capacity with two new members joining our team. Together we accomplished program successes

reaching out to the entire community providing youth, adult and senior recreation opportunities. Milford Recreation offered a myriad of youth programs including drama workshops, tennis, swim lessons, swim team, lacrosse, and tot-drop-in programs. Adult programs included coed softball, flag football, basketball, yoga, and contra dances. Senior activities consisted of coffee hours with guest presentations and activities, bingo brunches and day trips. Activities and events enjoyed by all ages included the summer band concert series, July 4th celebration and fireworks, and ice-skating.



The year 2005 saw many accomplishments in recreation programming and facilities improvements. The utilization of a new management software system allowed the Recreation Department to track programs, enrollments, and finances and to offer new ID Pool Passes for Keyes Pool. New programs that were implemented since the new system was launched include a summer lacrosse clinic, an adult basketball league, and senior trips—we look forward to watching these programs grow.

Site work was completed and equipment ordered for the Keyes Pool Concession Stand to be fully operational for the 2006 season. Fields in town were also given special attention. Keyes Baseball Field was improved with help from the American Legion which enabled infield mix resurfacing and the addition of a fence guard, practice pitching mounds and a batting cage. Also, both Keyes softball fields were resurfaced. This was accomplished by removing the stone dust material and adding a deep layer of clay infield mix that was leveled and ready for use in the spring. This large-scale project at Keyes Park was made possible with generous donations from the Mike and Linda Marchesi Fund and the MAA O'Connor Fund. The Shepard Park infield was also resurfaced with a volunteer effort led by the Milford Community Athletic Association (MCAA). Additionally, generous support from the East Milford Improvement Society aided in the completion of the Shepard Park fencing improvements with the replacement of the backstop fencing and the addition of a double gate access point.

Last but not least, the Keyes Skatepark has had a resurgence of interest as a group named the Milford RIDERS, “Residents Involved in Decisions Enhancing our Recreation Skatepark”, has formed. The Riders are a group of skatepark users including bikers, skateboarders, and inline skaters that formed with a mission of addressing safety issues and working towards general improvement of the Keyes Skatepark. When the skatepark was closed due to vandalism and safety concerns, this group raised money and volunteered their efforts to get the park ‘fixed’ and it was reopened in time for the start of the season! This was a great first achievement for this group, which continues to hold monthly meetings to discuss future skatepark improvements.

LOOKING FORWARD - As we look forward to 2006 the Recreation Commission is working to improve communication between the Town, MCAA, Schools, and other groups involved in youth sports. All of these organizations are working towards the same goals and by working together those goals should be achieved more efficiently.

Rebuilding the pavilion at Keyes Park has been started and the Commission is working to avoid using tax dollars and have the materials and labor provided through donations. The Keyes Memorial Trust will be providing funding for the pavilion materials and the Milford High School Building Trades students and faculty will be leading the labor effort on this project. We hope to have it completed in 2006.

Currently the amount of playing field space in Milford is far less than adequate to meet the Town's needs and the need for more field space is growing every year. The Commission is working on several solutions to this problem including improving the Kaley Park property, the BROX property, and other areas as well. However, it will take several years to improve these properties to usable condition.

SPECIAL THANKS - Every major physical improvement to Milford's recreation areas in 2005 would not have been possible without the help of volunteers. There are also many other events and situations that would not have been possible without volunteers.

Hundreds of residents, businesses and organizations have stepped up to make Milford a better place to live in 2005. Many of them are well known, but some are not. We've made many improvements last year, and we are encouraged as we look ahead to the challenges of 2006 and beyond.

Whenever someone contributes their money, materials, equipment or time, no matter how large or small, it all adds up to make a tremendous difference. We sincerely thank each and every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Banks, Recreation Director

Walter Smith, Chairman Recreation Commission

